

5 means for generating apparatus protection data comprising a first set of data and a second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said first set of data being specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction apparatus is to be used;

10 means for defining a protection level based on said medium protection data and apparatus protection data in combination; and

means for executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said protection level.

19. A reproduction protection method providing reproduction protection, for operating on main data which are conveyed by a data medium and on medium protection data which are specific to said data medium and are conveyed by said data medium, the method comprising the steps of:

5 generating apparatus protection data comprising a first set of data and a second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said first set of data being specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction apparatus is to be used;

10 defining a protection level based on said medium protection data and apparatus protection data in combination; and

executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said protection level.

20. A data medium for transferring main data to a reproduction apparatus, to reproduce said main data by said reproduction apparatus, characterized in that:

said data medium further transfers medium protection data which are specific to said data medium;

5 said reproduction apparatus generates apparatus protection data compromising a first set of data and a second set of data such that said said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said first set of data being specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction apparatus is to be used, and;

10 said medium protection data and apparatus protection data in combination specify a degree of restriction of said reproduction of the main data by said reproduction apparatus.

21. A decoding apparatus providing decoding protection, for operating on information which is transferred through a media and comprises main data which are to be decoded and protection data, the apparatus comprising:

5 means for generating apparatus protection data comprising a first set of data and a second set of data such that said said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by

said user, said first set of data being specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction apparatus is to be used;

means for defining a protection level based on said protection data and said
10 apparatus protection data, in combination; and

means for executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said protection level.

22. A decoding protection method providing decoding protection in a decoding apparatus, for operating on information which is transferred through a media and comprises main data which are to be decoded and protection data, the method comprising the steps of:

5 generating apparatus protection data comprising a first set of data and a second set of data such that said said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said decoding apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said first set of data being specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction apparatus is to be used;

10 defining a protection level based on said protection data and said apparatus protection data, in combination; and

executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said protection level.--